

Cannabis Equity Study

Mid-City Community Advocacy Network

August 2019



Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
Purpose	3
Methods.....	3
ANALYSIS	4
Cannabis Arrests	4
Adult Cannabis Arrests.....	10
Youth Cannabis Arrests.....	19
CONCLUSION.....	26

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to assess the impact of the criminalization of cannabis within the City of San Diego. To do so Mid-City CAN analyzed data obtained through a Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) from the San Diego Association of Government's (SANDAG) cannabis related arrest records from 2012 to 2017. While requested, data prior to 2012 was deemed unavailable by SANDAG and not provided. As such this report may be limited in its ability to fully depict the disproportionate impact among people of color due to cannabis criminalization. Mid-City CAN is continuing to pursue data prior to 2012 and hypothesizes that data relevant to the period known as The War on Drugs will reveal more severe disparities than those found in this analysis. Data sets limited to 2012-2017 may underestimate the impact of cannabis criminalization due to the cultural and policy shifts that began to influence policing during this period. Nevertheless, this report concludes that cannabis criminalization during 2012-2017 disproportionately impacted communities of color.

Methods

Cannabis arrest rates are used as an indicator of the impact of cannabis criminalization. Mid-City CAN used SANDAG cannabis related arrest record data to calculate arrest rates by zip codes, age groups and racial and ethnic groups. Cannabis arrest rates are the quotient of the number of arrests and number of individuals in an at-risk population.

In this analysis, the at-risk population is defined by age, geography and/or race/ethnicity based on the characteristics of cannabis related arrests for which a rate is calculated. For example, for black juvenile arrests in the 92105 zip code the at-risk population would include black individuals in 92105 between the ages of 10 and 17 years.

For annual arrest rate the American Community Survey population estimates for that year are used for at risk population. For aggregate 2012 to 2017 arrest rates American Community Survey population estimates for 2015 are used for at risk population.

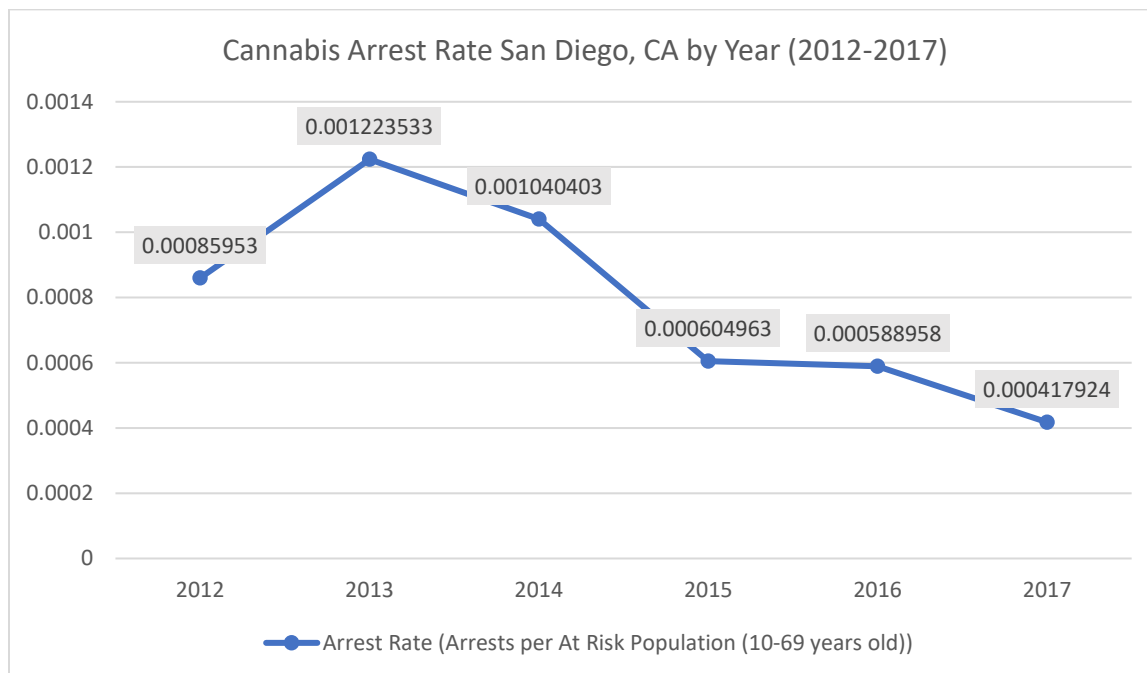
Total, juvenile, and adult at-risk population are defined as population between 10 and 69 years old, 10 and 17 years old, and 18 and 69 years old, respectively. These age group definitions are based on California and U.S. Department of Justice calculates arrest rate formulas. At risk population numbers are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey population estimates.

ANALYSIS

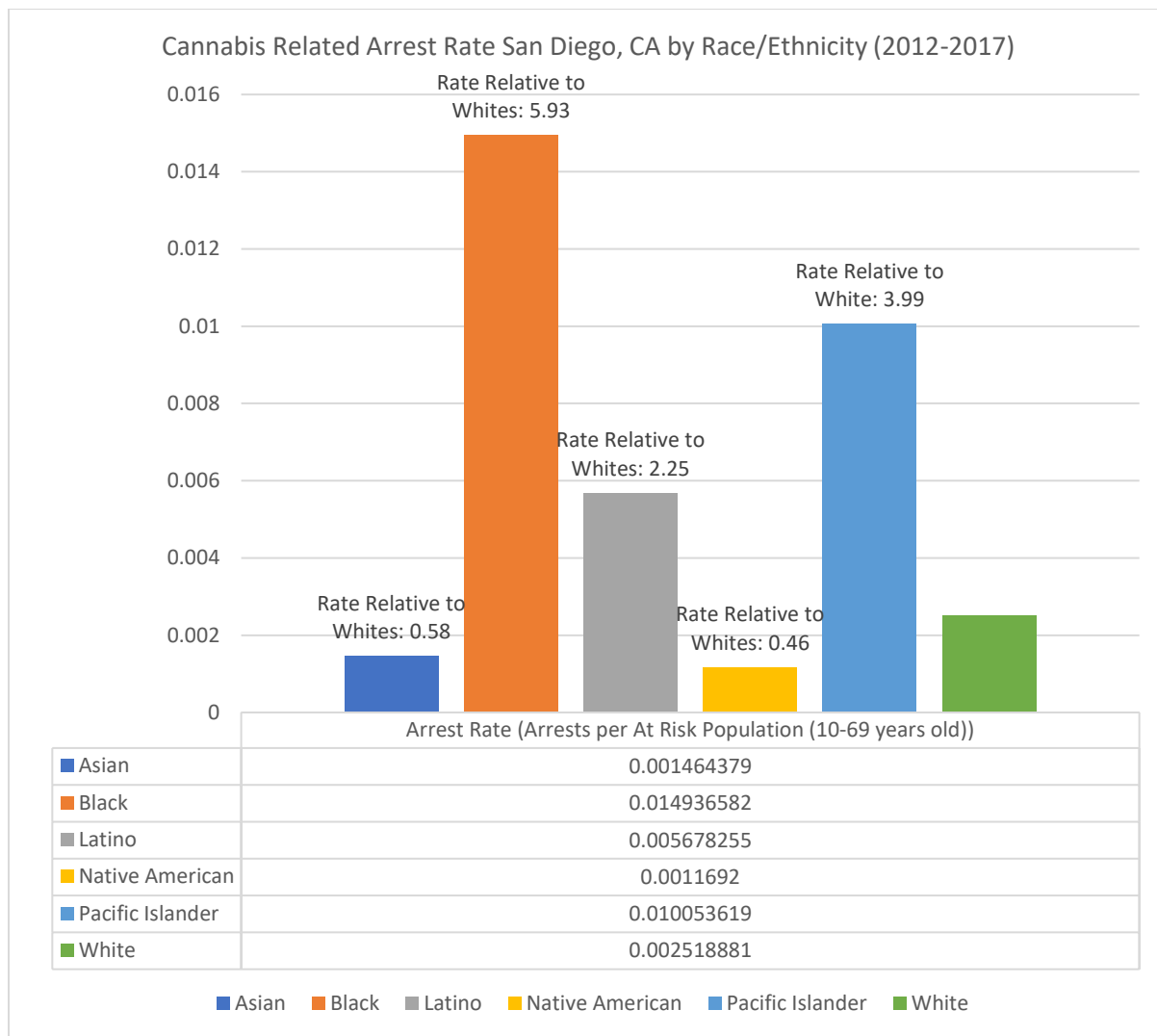
Cannabis Arrests

Between 2012 and 2017 there were 5,097 arrests with cannabis related charges. The arrests of this relatively recent period might represent a smaller proportion of the cannabis related arrests made in San Diego than during earlier periods of the war on drugs.

Within this period, the highest arrest rate occurred in 2013. The arrest rate in 2013 was 12 per 10,000 in at the risk population (10-69 years old). There was a sharp decline after this period. Mid-City CAN is currently seeking more historical data to better assess the criminalization of cannabis on communities within the city of San Diego.



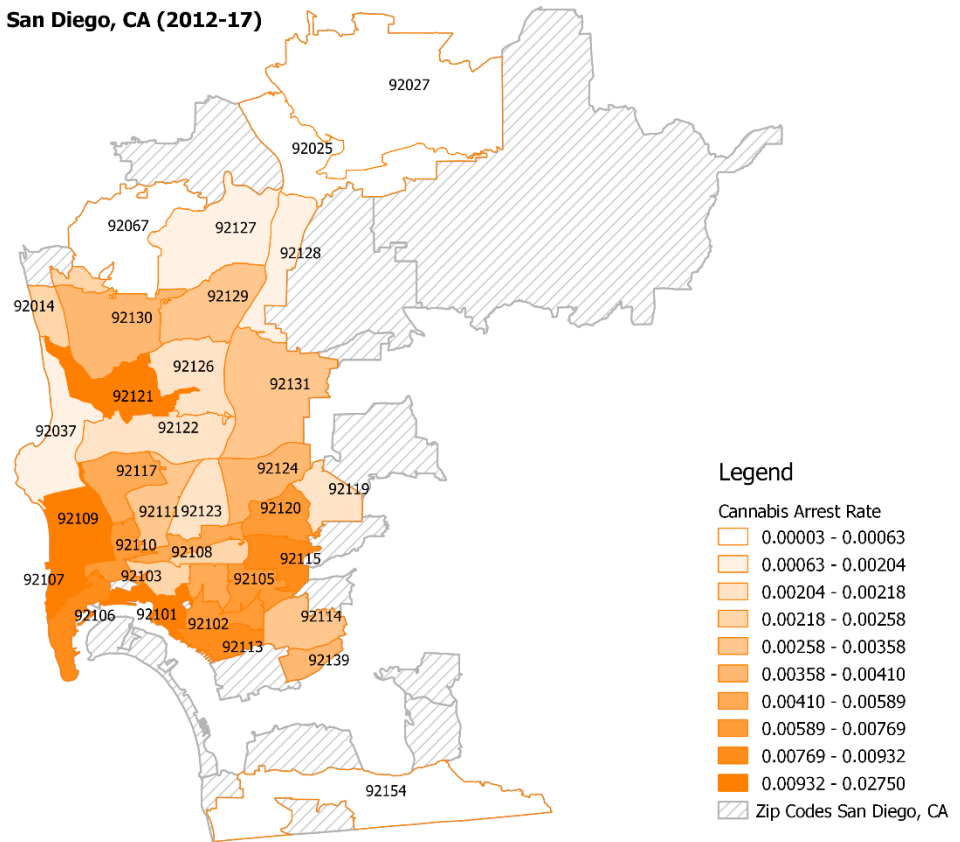
Among San Diego residents, people of color were disproportionately impacted by the criminalization of cannabis. While 3 per 1,000 white San Diegans were arrested on cannabis related charges, 15 black San Diegans were arrested per 1,000; 10 Pacific Islanders were arrested per 1,000; 6 Latinos were arrested per 1,000.



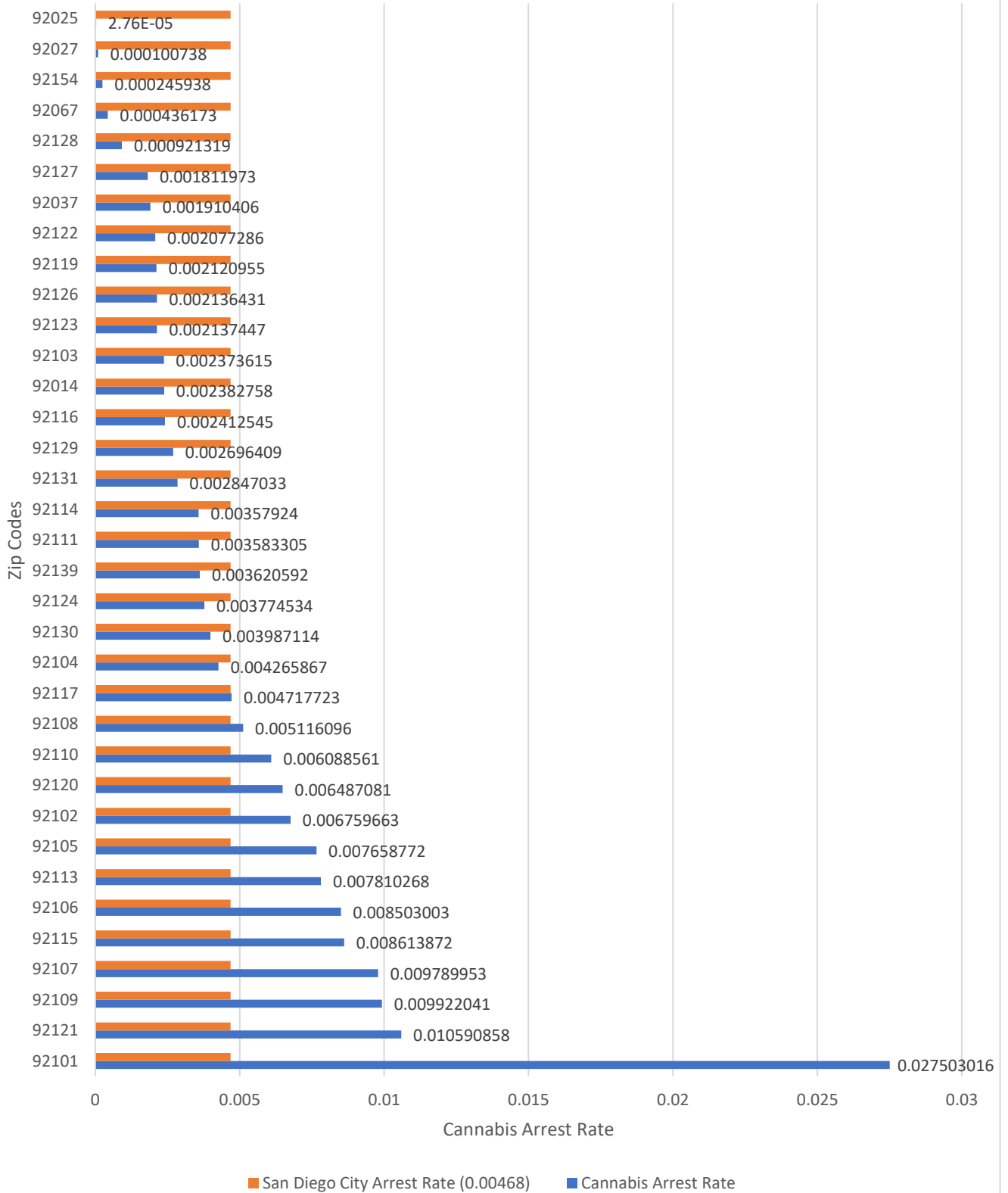
The arrest rates of people of color for cannabis-related charges are multiple times greater than that of white San Diegans. Black people were arrested at rate 6 times the rate of their white counterparts; Pacific Islanders were arrested at rate 4 times higher than their white people; Latinos were arrested at a rate twice the rate of their white counterparts. Communities of color were disproportionately criminalized for cannabis related charges.

The impact of the criminalization of cannabis was also higher in certain areas of San Diego, CA.

Cannabis Arrest Rate in San Diego, CA (2012-17)

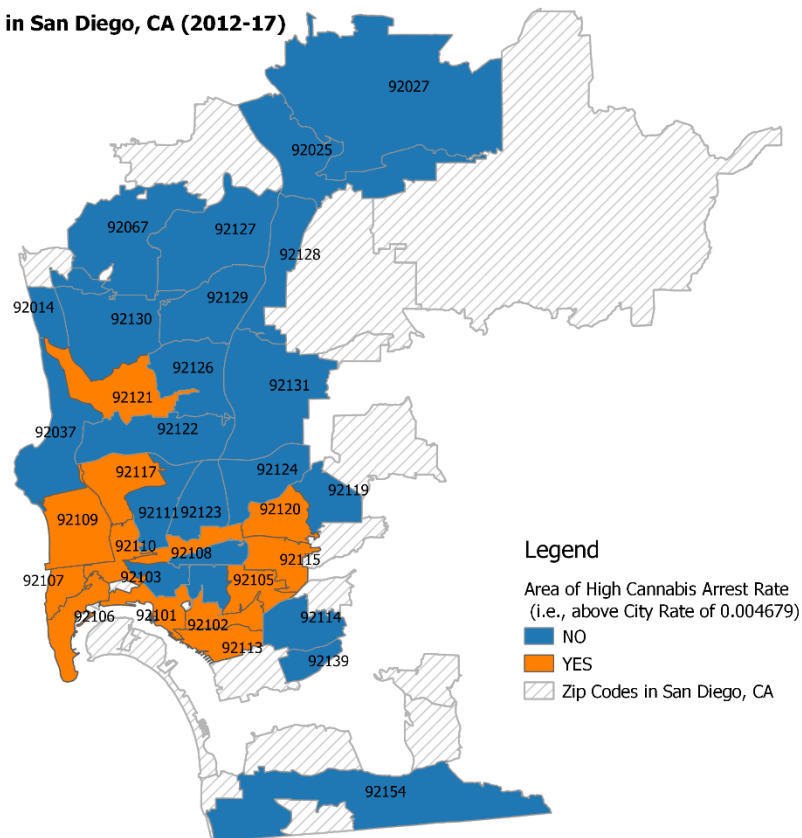


Cannabis Arrest Rate in San Diego, CA (2012-17)



Areas of high (i.e., above the city-wide arrest rate) cannabis related arrest rate exist throughout the city, especially in central and slightly southeastern San Diegan neighborhoods. Many of the central neighborhoods with high cannabis arrest rates in and near downtown are areas of high police presence. Individuals arrested in these areas most likely do not reside there. Other high arrest areas include zip codes in Logan Heights, Barrio Logan and Mid-City. The northernmost outlying neighborhood with a high cannabis arrest rate is Sorrento Valley.

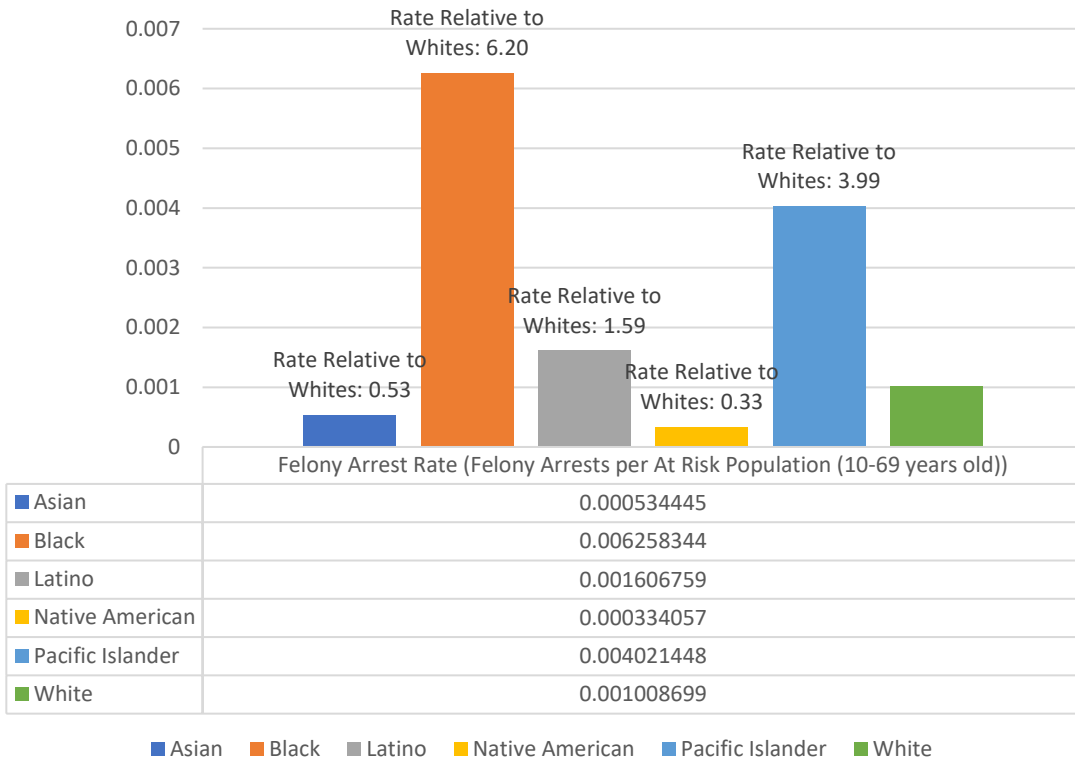
High Cannabis Arrest Zip Codes in San Diego, CA (2012-17)



Felony level charges carry the threat of more severe punishment; thus, they can have a more severe impact the lives of those accused and convicted. From 2012 to 2017, there were 1,831 arrests for felony level cannabis related charges.

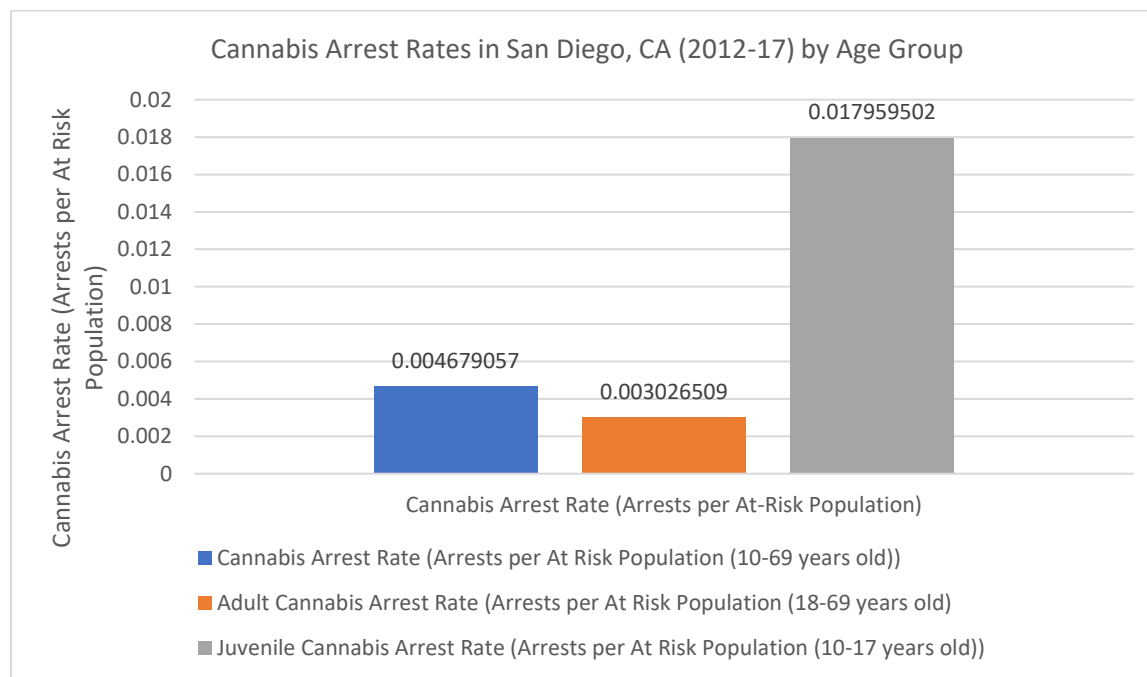
People of color are also disproportionately arrested for felony level cannabis related charges in San Diego. Black people were arrested at rate 6 times the rate of their white counterparts; Pacific Islanders were arrested at rate 4 times higher than whites; Latinos were arrested at a rate twice the rate of their white counterparts. Communities of color were disproportionately criminalized for felony-level cannabis related charges.

Felony Cannabis Related Arrest Rate San Diego, CA by Race/Ethnicity (2012-2017)

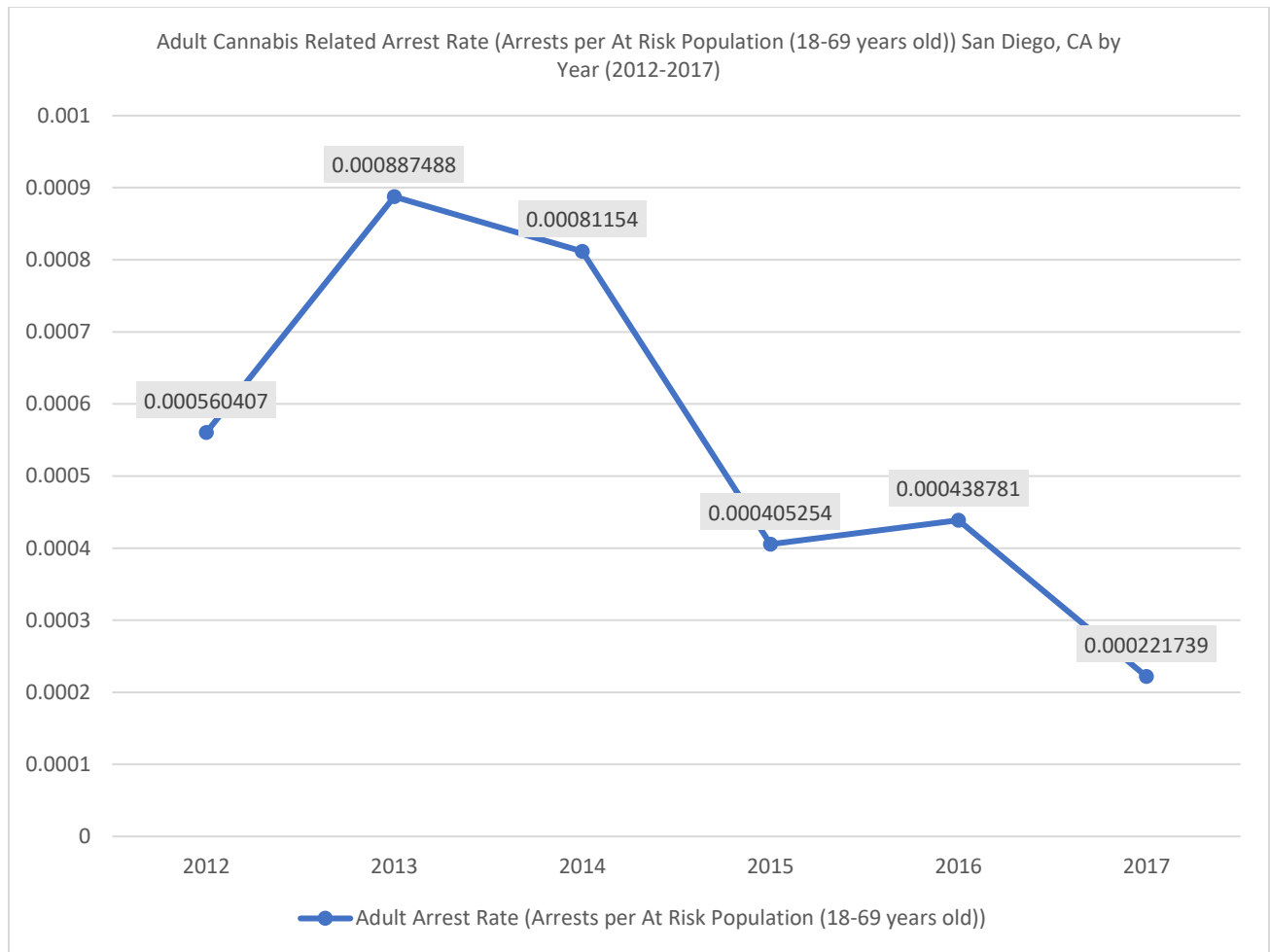


Adult Cannabis Arrests

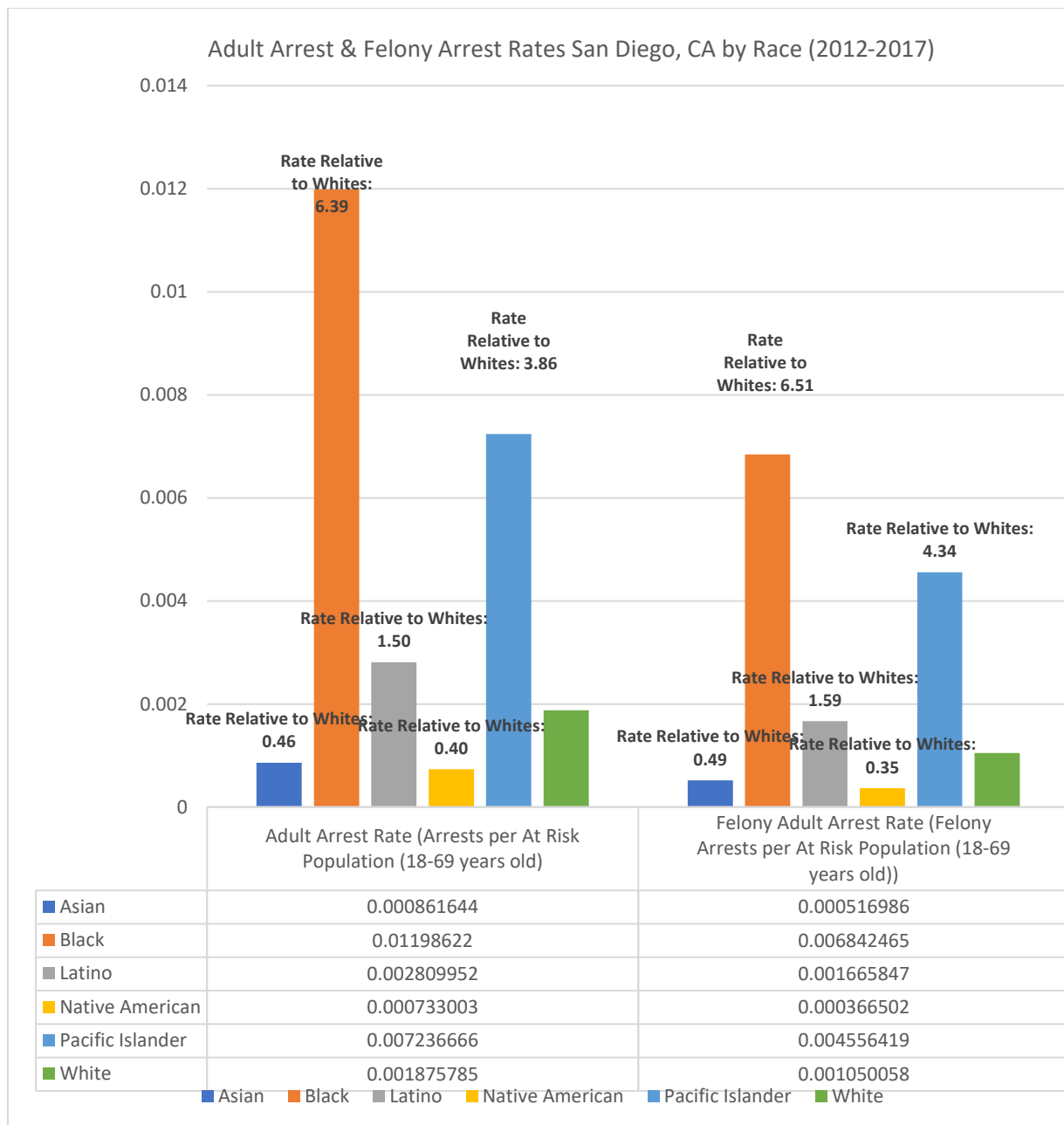
In addition to certain racial/ethnic groups and neighborhoods within San Diego being disproportionately impacted by the criminalization of cannabis, youth had higher arrest rates for cannabis-related charges during this period. While 3 adults in San Diego were arrested per 1,000 in the at risk population (18-69 years old), 18 youth were arrested per 1,000 in the at risk population (10-17 years old).



From 2012 to 2017, 2,923 adults were arrested in San Diego. The year with the highest adult arrest rate was 2013. In 2013, the arrest rate was 9 per 10,000 lower than the total cannabis-related arrest rate (i.e., 12 per 10,000 in at risk population).



Among adults, people of color are also arrested at higher rates than white people. There were 12 cannabis-related arrests of black people per 1,000 in the at risk population, a rate six times the white arrest rate (2 per 1,000 in the at risk population). The second most frequently arrested San Diegans were Pacific Islanders whose cannabis-related arrest rate was 7 per 1,000 in the at risk population. Pacific Islanders were arrested at a rate 4 times the arrest rate for white adults. Latino adults are arrested for cannabis-related charges at a rate twice that of white adults' rate. These racial disparities are even greater for felony arrest rates. For example, black adults are arrested for felony-level cannabis-related charges at a rate that is about 7 times the white arrest rate compared to about 6 times the white rate for all cannabis-related charges. Adults of color are arrested for cannabis-related charges at higher rates than their white counterparts.



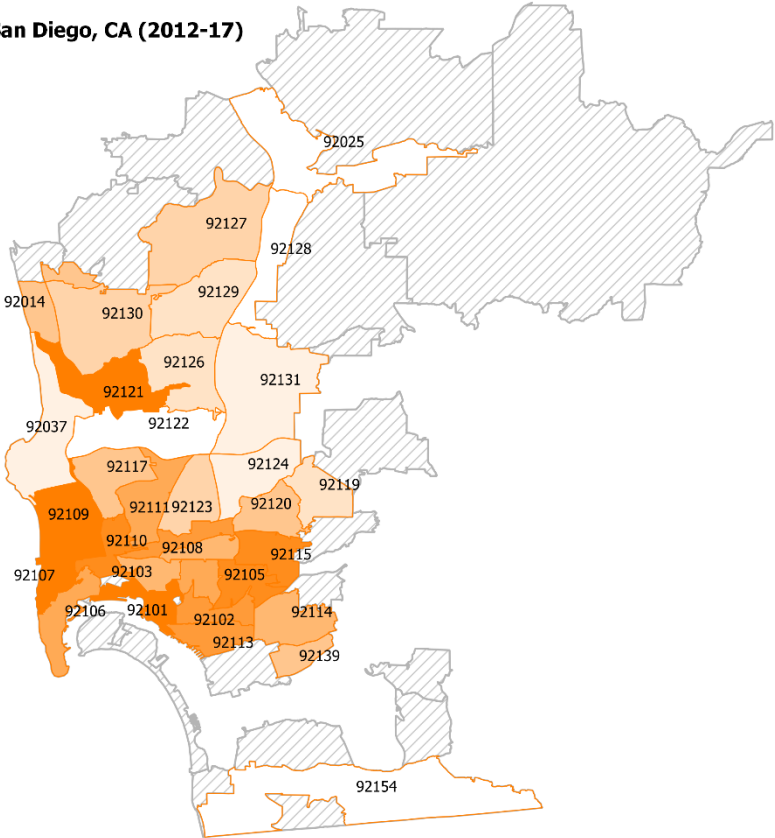
Adults were arrested for cannabis related charges most frequently within central and southeastern San Diego.

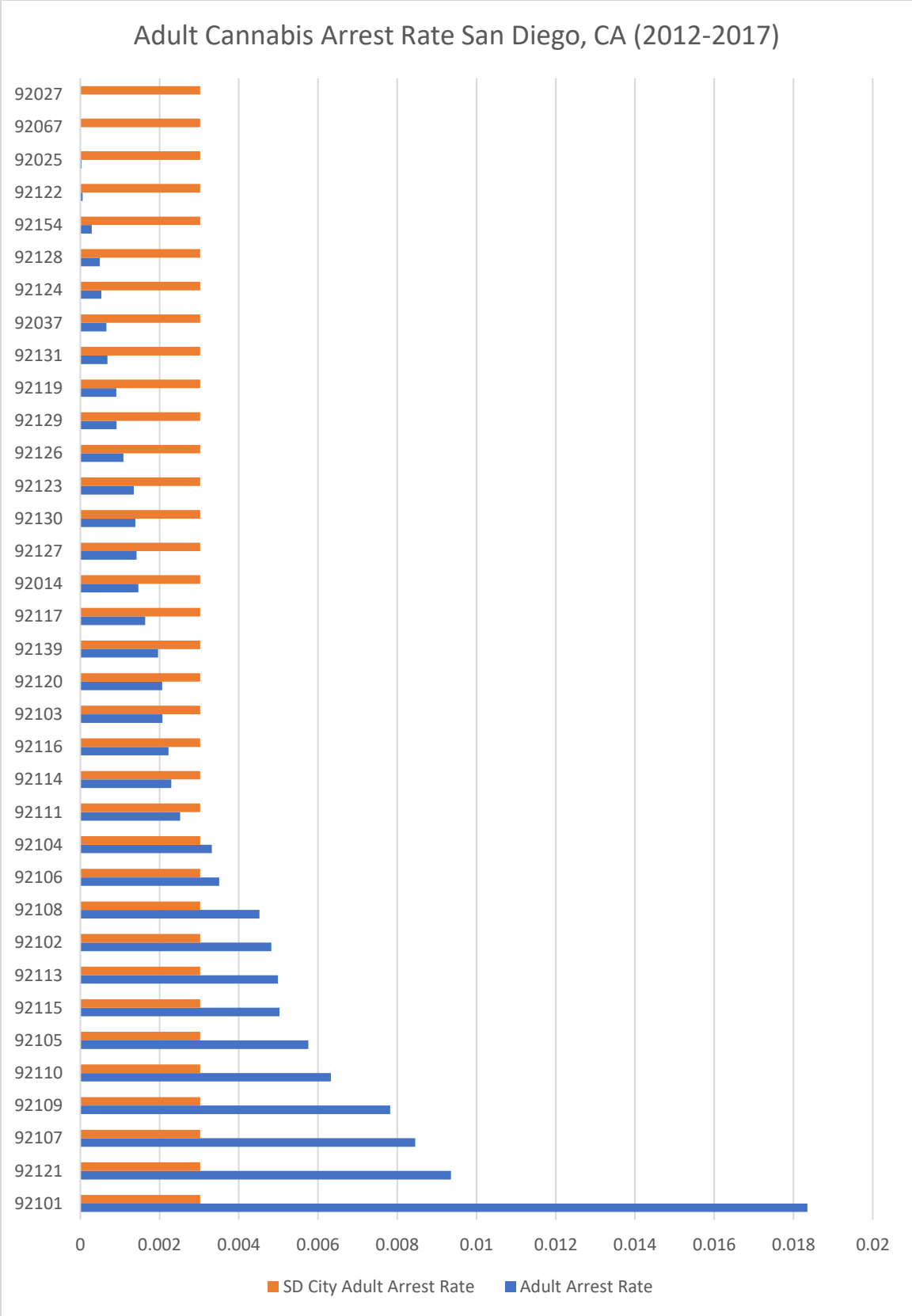
Adult Cannabis Arrest Rate in San Diego, CA (2012-17)

Legend

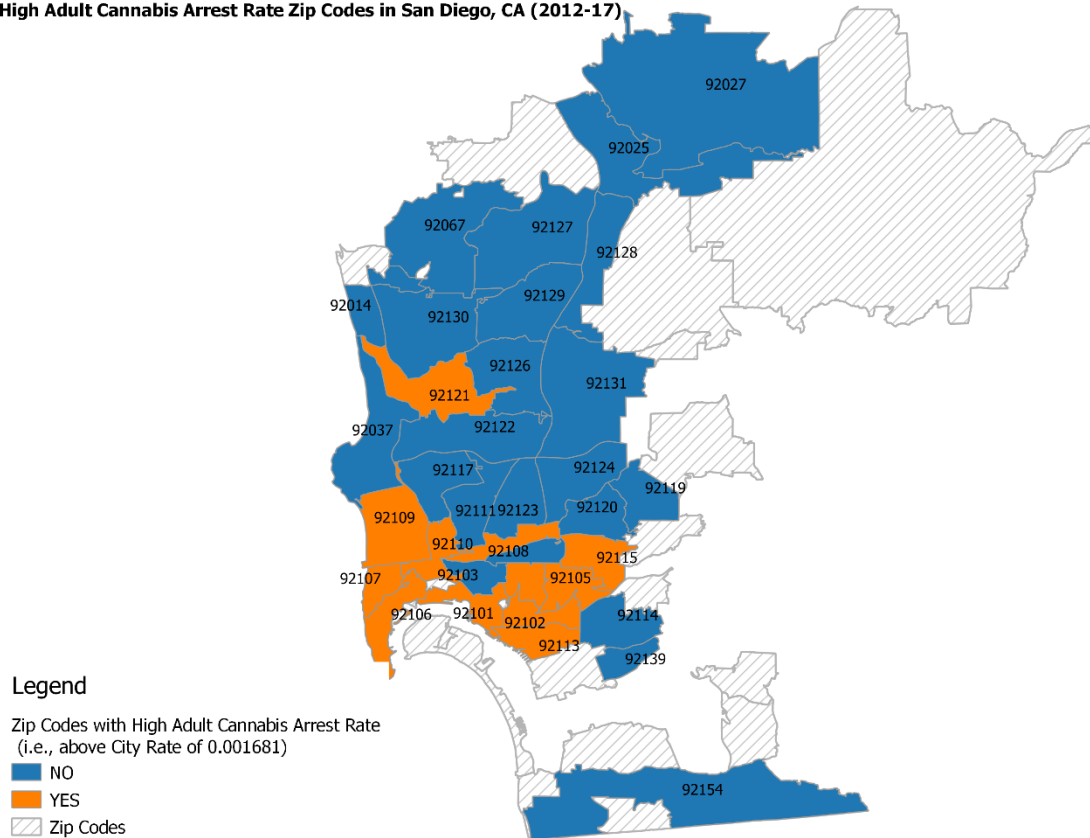
Adult Cannabis Arrest Rate

- 0.00003 - 0.00050
- 0.00050 - 0.00078
- 0.00078 - 0.00125
- 0.00125 - 0.00146
- 0.00146 - 0.00207
- 0.00207 - 0.00234
- 0.00234 - 0.00391
- 0.00391 - 0.00501
- 0.00501 - 0.00752
- 0.00752 - 0.01835
- Zip Codes



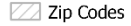


High Adult Cannabis Arrest Rate Zip Codes in San Diego, CA (2012-17)

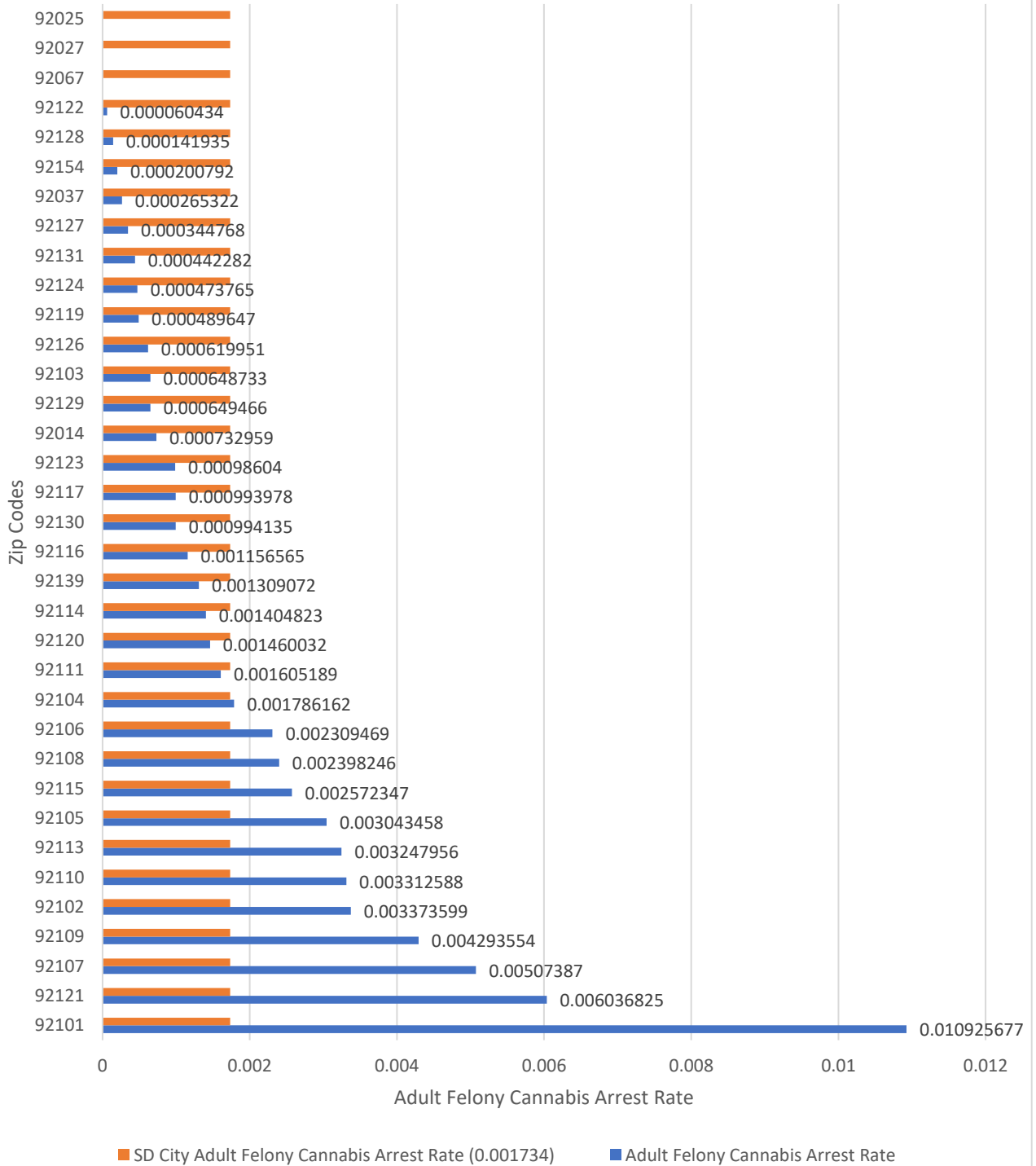


Map of San Diego showing 2017 estimated population by ZIP code. The map is color-coded by population density, with darker shades of orange indicating higher density. ZIP codes are labeled on the map.

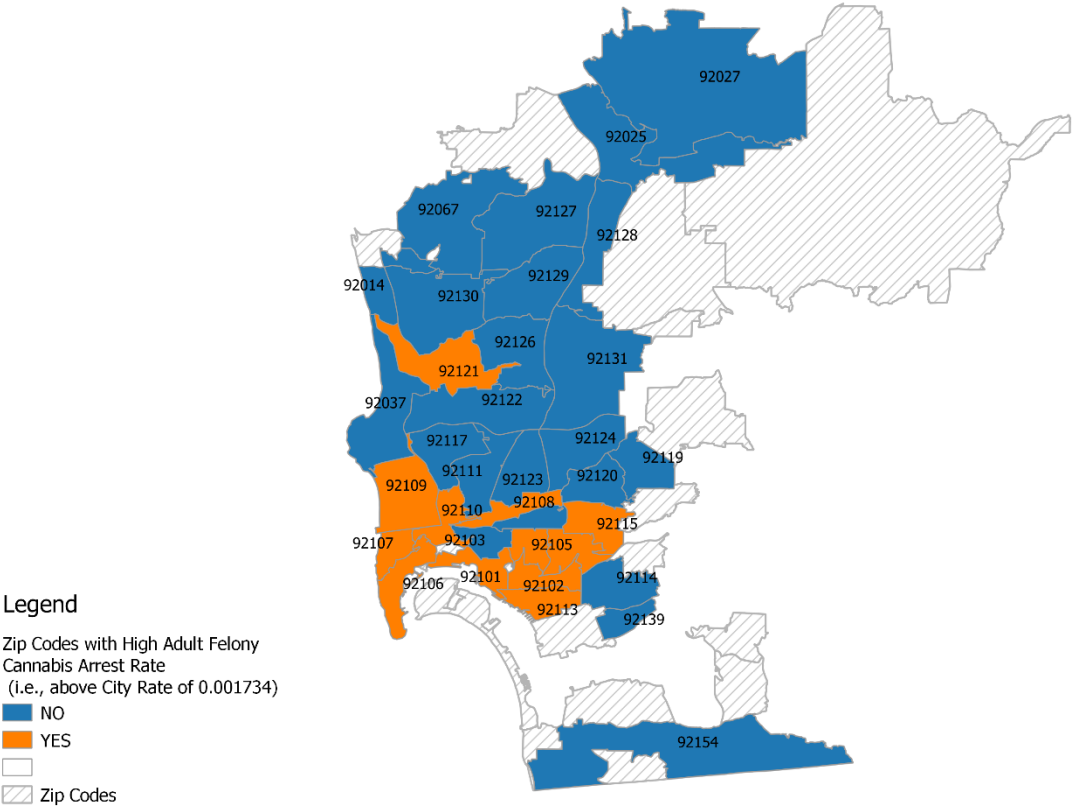
ZIP Code	Estimated Population (2017)
92014	~15,000
92037	~15,000
92107	~25,000
92109	~25,000
92110	~25,000
92111	~25,000
92117	~25,000
92121	~25,000
92122	~25,000
92126	~25,000
92129	~25,000
92130	~25,000
92131	~25,000
92137	~25,000
92141	~25,000
92142	~25,000
92143	~25,000
92144	~25,000
92145	~25,000
92146	~25,000
92147	~25,000
92148	~25,000
92149	~25,000
92154	~15,000



Adult Felony Cannabis Arrest Rate by Zip Code

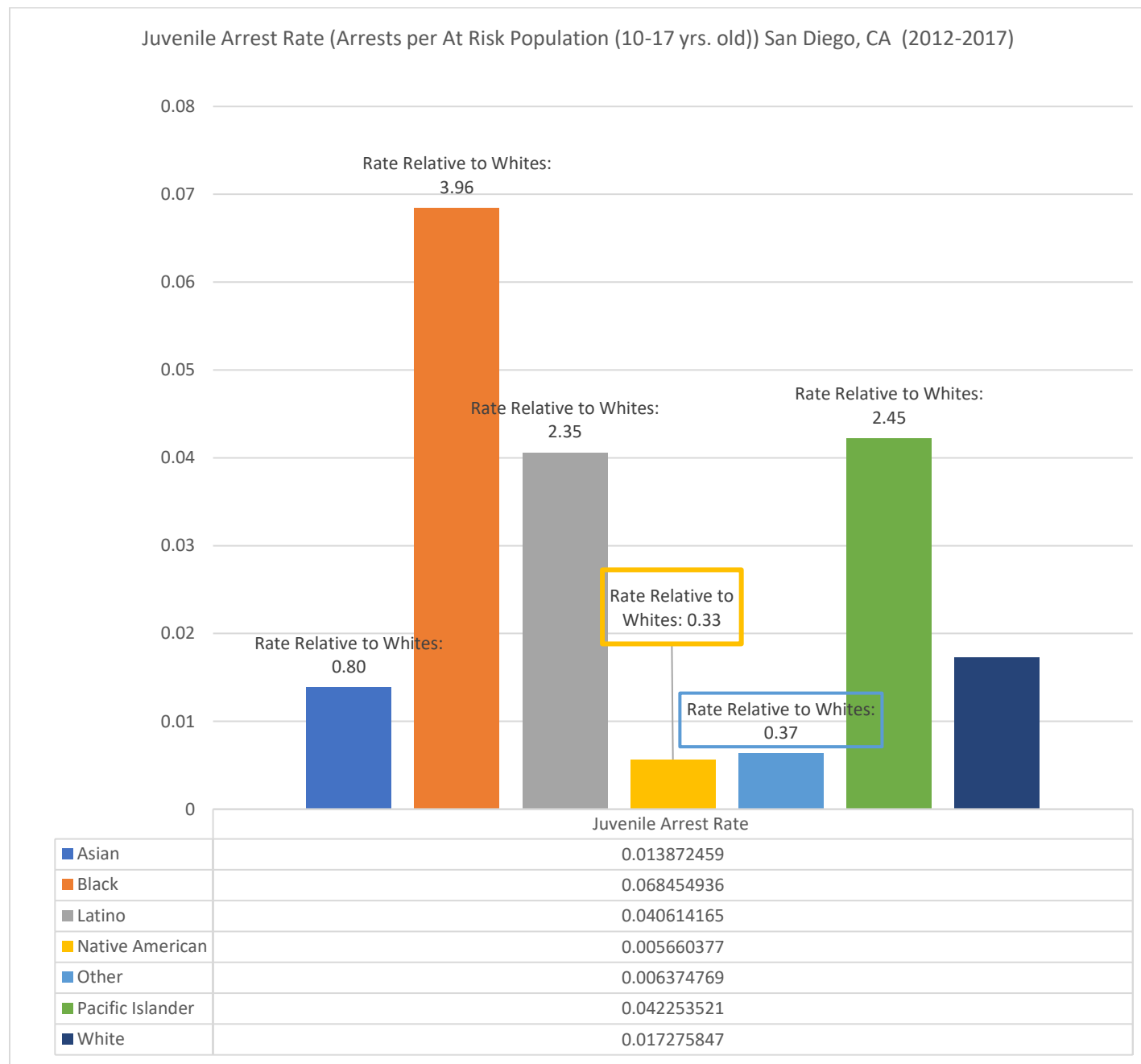


Areas of High Adult Felony Cannabis Arrest Rate in San Diego, CA (2012-17)

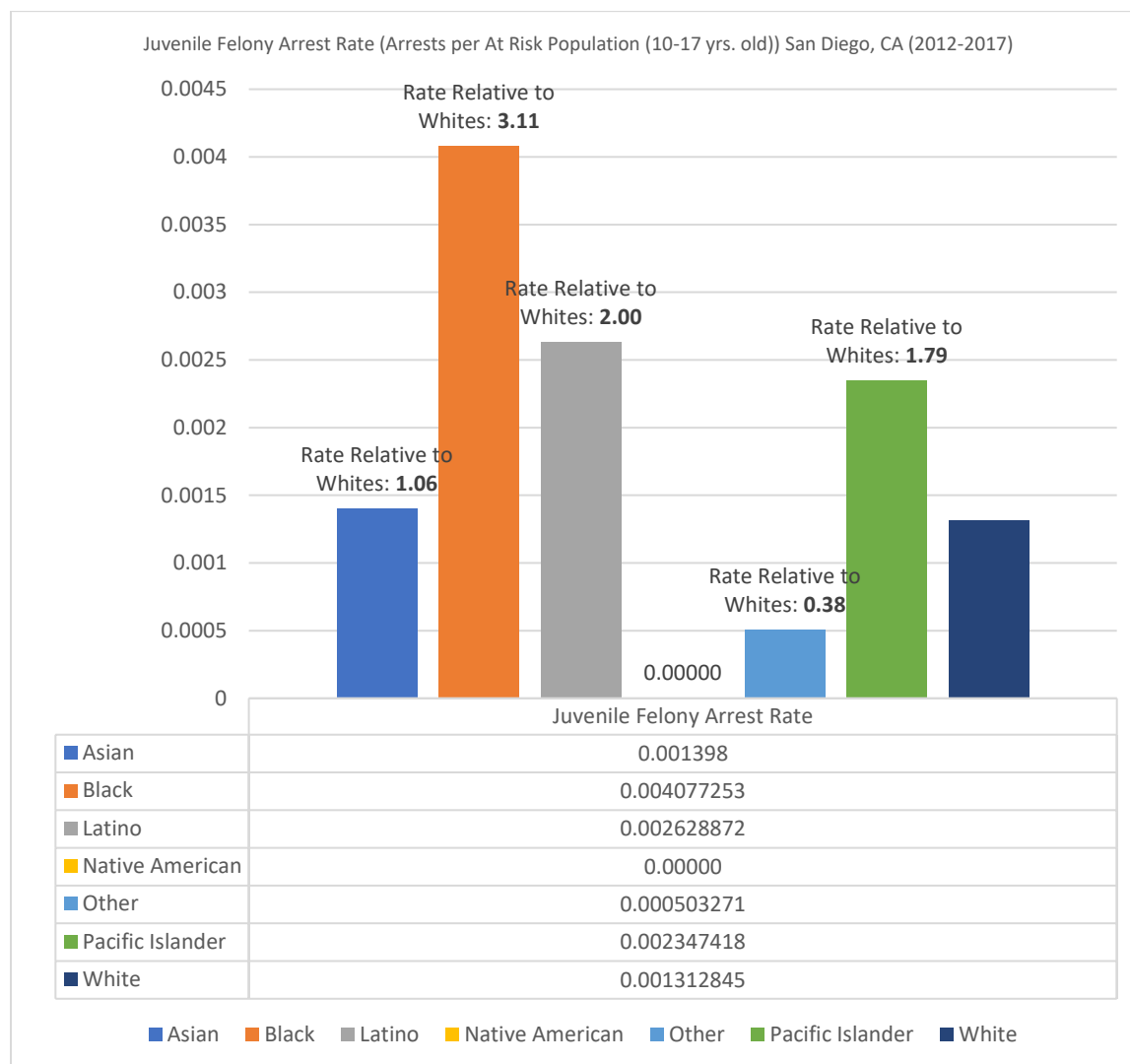


Youth Cannabis Arrests

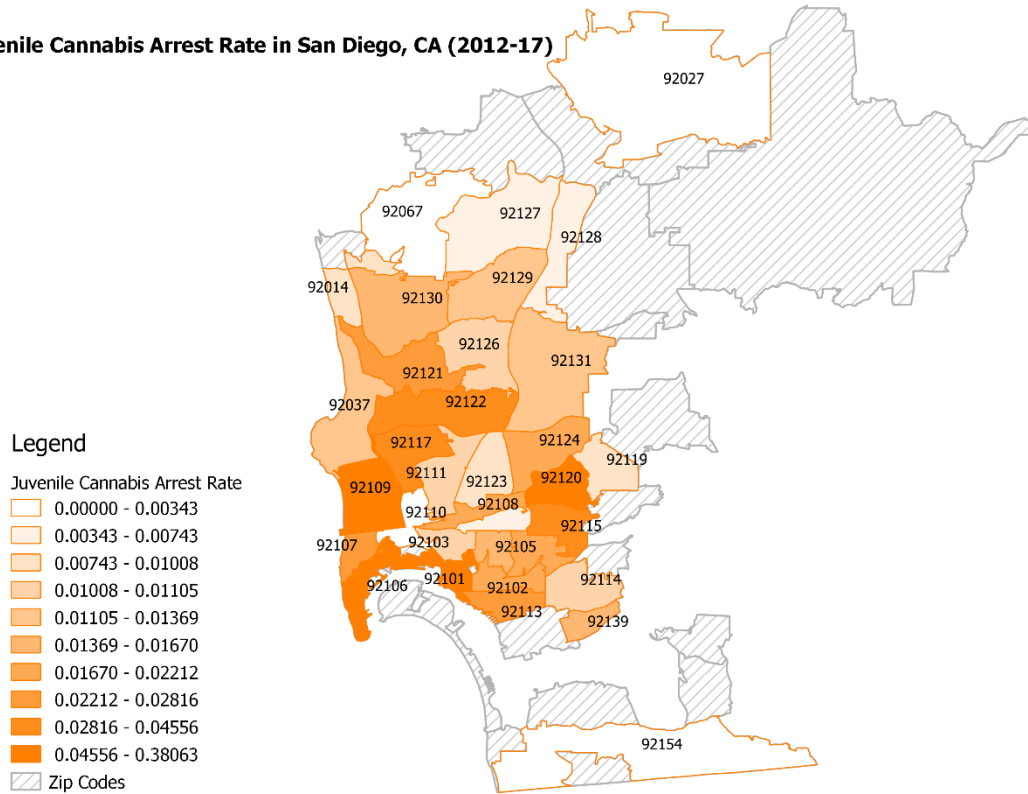
Youth of color are arrested at higher rates than white youth. There were 68 cannabis-related arrests of black people per 1,000 in the at risk population, a rate four times the white arrest rate (17 per 1,000 in the at risk population (10-17 years old)). The second most frequently arrested San Diegans were Pacific Islanders youth whose cannabis-related arrest rate was 42 per 1,000 in the at risk population. Young pacific Islanders were arrested at a rate double the arrest rate for white adults. Latino youth 41 per 1,000 in the at risk population are arrested for cannabis-related charges at a rate over twice the rate of white adults' rate.



Felony arrest rates for youth of color are also higher than their white counterparts. For example, black youth are arrested for felony-level cannabis-related charges at a rate that is about 3. Pacific Islanders and Latino youth are arrested for cannabis-related felony charges at a rate 2 times the rate for their white counterparts. Arrests for felony charges can lead to more severe negative impacts on accused youth. Youth of color are arrested for cannabis-related charges at higher rates than their white counterparts.

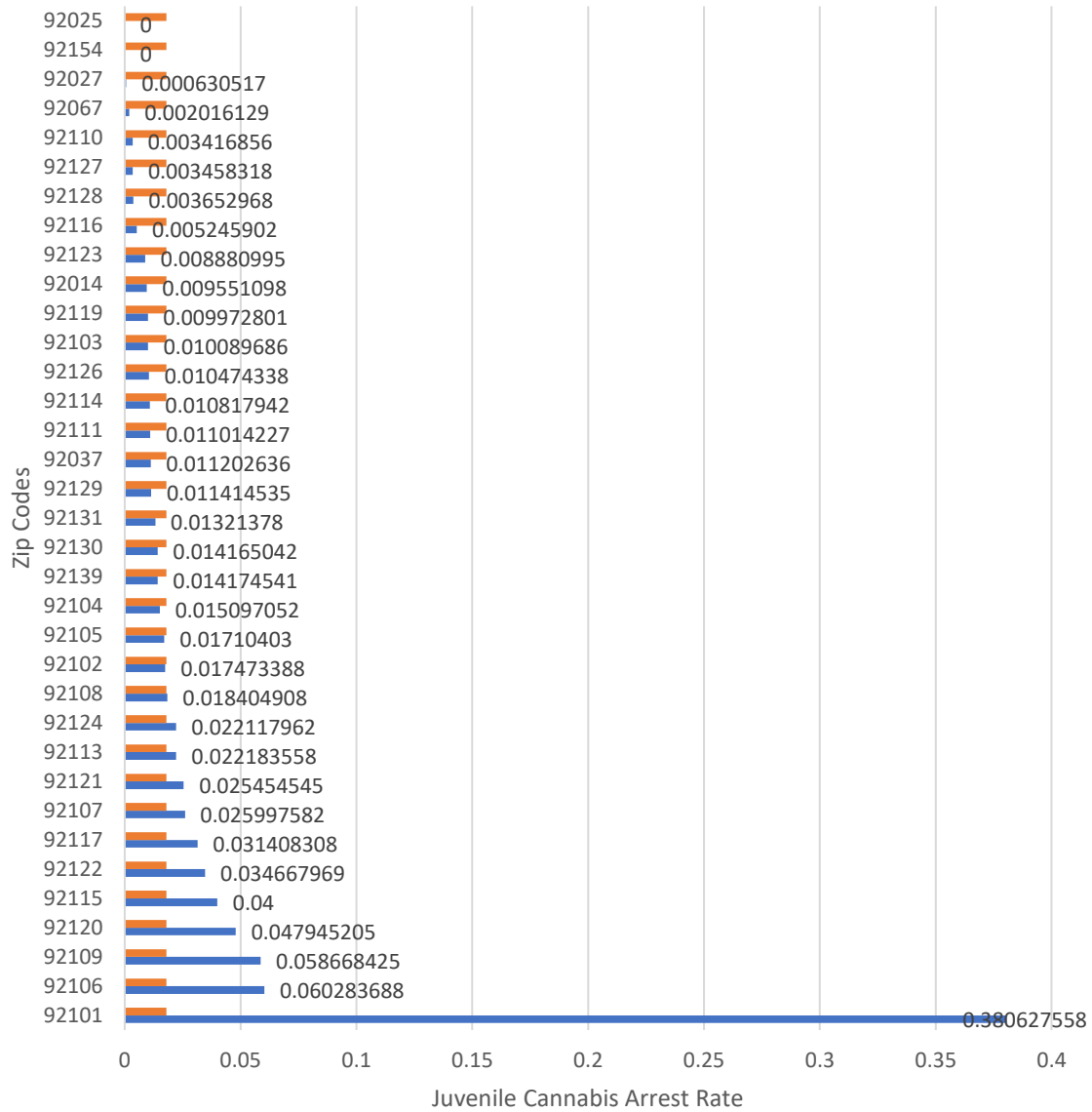


Juvenile Cannabis Arrest Rate in San Diego, CA (2012-17)

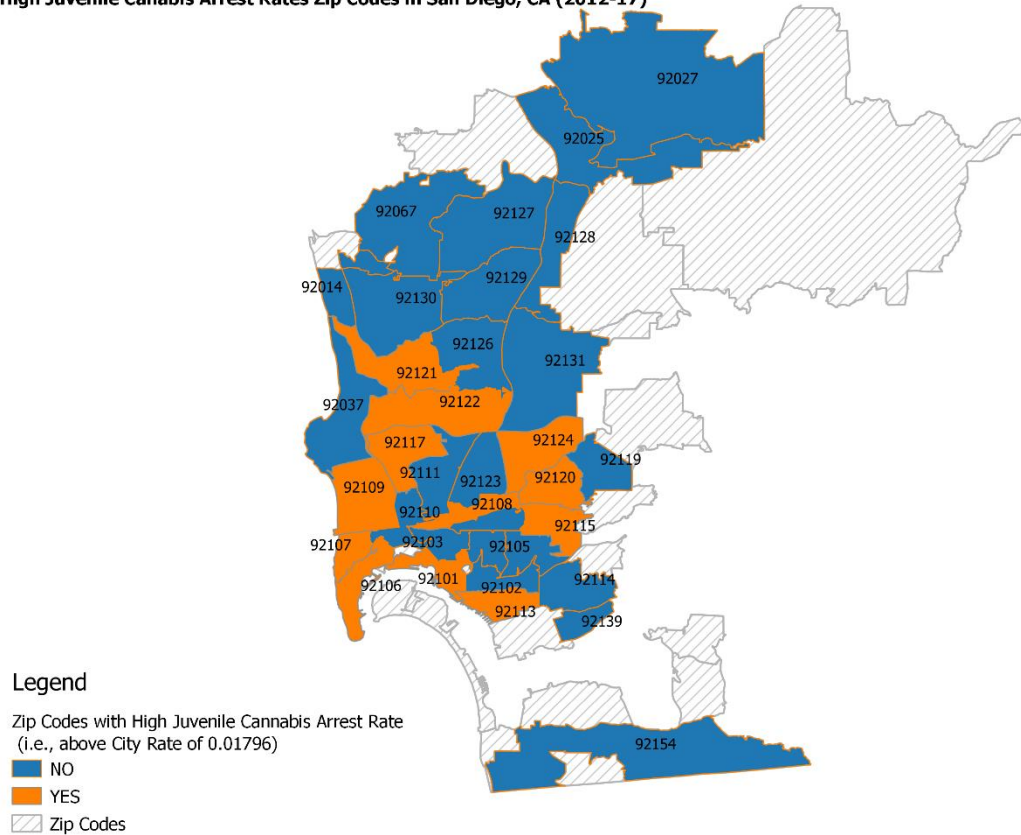


Juvenile cannabis arrests in San Diego occurred more frequently in central and southeastern areas. There are some differences in the geographical distribution of adult and juvenile cannabis arrests: Among city zip codes University City's (92122), Clairemont's (92117), Paradise Hills' (92139) juvenile cannabis arrest rates were higher than their adult cannabis arrest rates; Midway's (92110) juvenile cannabis arrest rate was lower than its adult cannabis arrest rate.

Juvenile Cannabis Arrest Rates by Zip Code in San Diego, CA (2012-17)



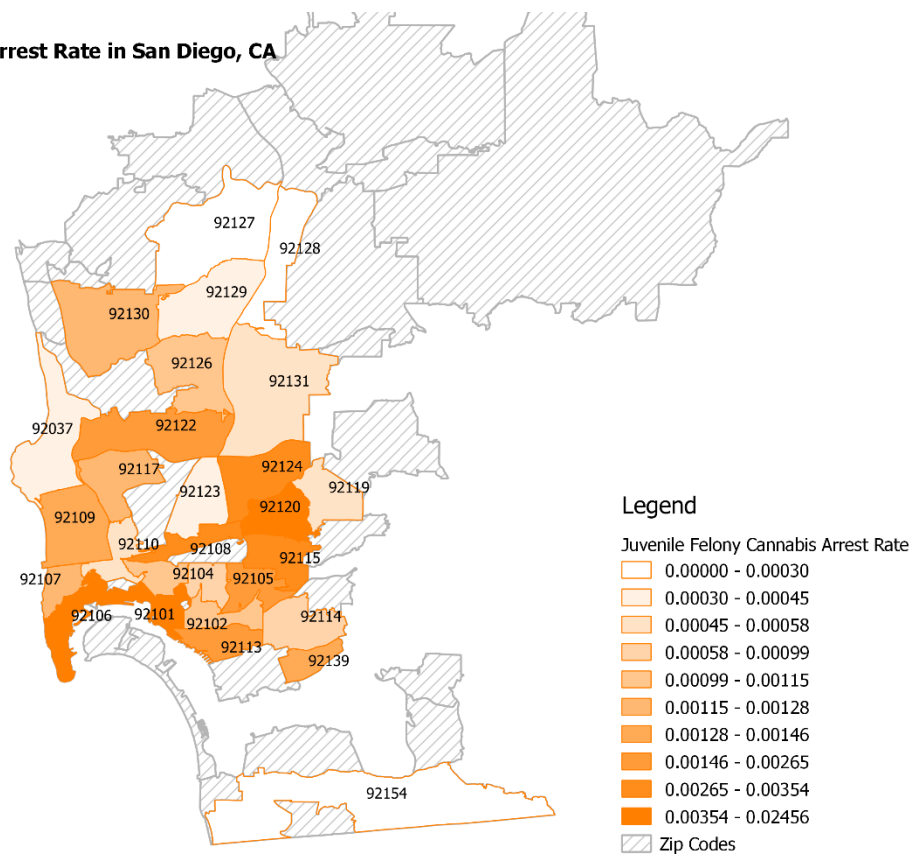
High Juvenile Cannabis Arrest Rates Zip Codes in San Diego, CA (2012-17)



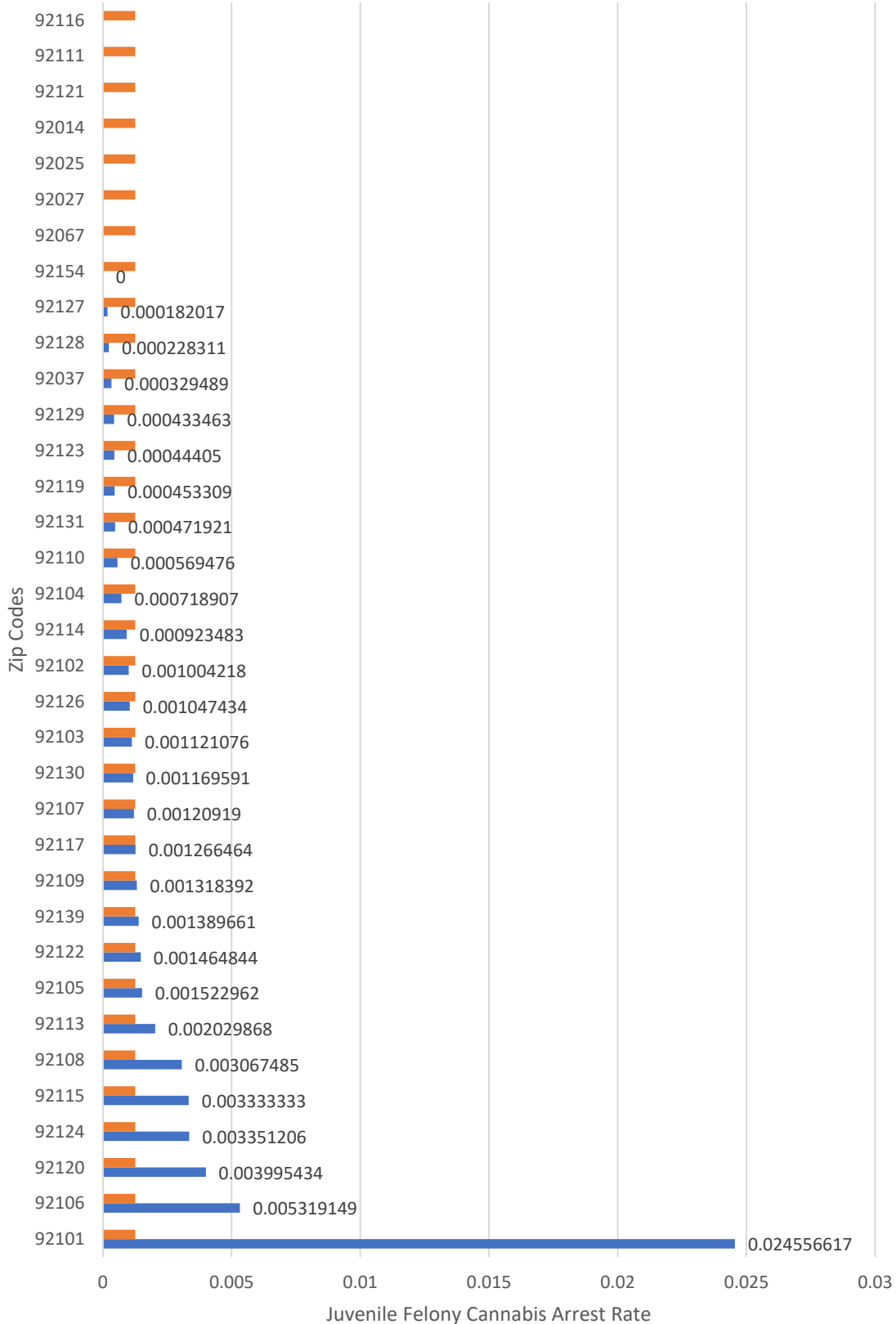
Areas with high juvenile cannabis arrest rates (i.e., above the city's juvenile arrest rate of 0.01796 arrests per at risk population (10-17 years old)). Juvenile cannabis arrests occurred at a high frequency in Logan Heights (92113), Barrio Logan (92113), University City (92122), Clairemont (92117), Eastern Mid-City (92115), near Grantville (92120) and Sorrento Valley (92121). Juvenile cannabis arrest rates were also above the city rate in overpoliced areas in downtown (92101), Point Loma (92106) and Ocean Beach (92107). Youth arrested in these areas are less likely to live in these areas as these areas attract more non-residents and the racial profile of these areas are incongruous with the racial profile of juvenile cannabis arrests.

Compared to all juvenile cannabis arrests felony-level juvenile cannabis arrests occurred less in northern zip codes and more frequently in south and southeastern zip codes

Juvenile Felony Cannabis Arrest Rate in San Diego, CA



Juvenile Felony Cannabis Arrest Rates by Zip Codes



San Diego City Juvenile Felony Cannabis Arrest Rate (0.001252603)
 Juvenile Felony Cannabis Arrest Rate

CONCLUSION

26